GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1535
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2008
NON AVAILABILITY OF FORESTRY DATA
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether statistical data relating to forestry sector is not available;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore;

(c) whether there is any proposal to create a data base to have an update knowledge of forestry wealth;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is shortage of timber, products, medicinal plants, paper, gum, rubber, raw material and fruits due to shrinking forest in the country;

(f) if so, the detailsthereof and the reasons therefore;

(g) the steps taken to overcome this problem; and

(h) the details of revenue earned from forests of the country during the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) The Forest Survey of India,Dehradun generates statistical data on forest cover,tree cover and growing stocks of forests/tees biennially which meets partial needs of the forestry sector. However, the data related to forestry sector has huge gaps. The estimated quantum of data not reported for the last few years ranges from 20 percent to 35 percent.

(b) The data on the following parameters is not being reported consistently for the last few years by the States.

a. Afforestation
b. Joint Forest Management
c. Seed Production Areas
d. Forest Fires
e. Non-Timber Forest Products

(c)& (d) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has prepared a scheme 'Strengthening of Forest Division' in 11th Five Year Plan. One of the components of the scheme is 'National Forestry Information System'. The objective of this scheme is to prepare a blueprint towards the development of a comprehensive National Forestry Database Management system (NFDMS) to effectively monitor various programmes, develop an appropriate forest statistics database and Networking with the State/UT Forest Departments.The database will collect compile and disseminate information on the production and consumption patterns of forestry products including Timber,Non-Wood Forestry Products, Forest Trade, opportunities for Export and Import of Forestry products, etc.

(e), (f), (g) & (h) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.